To the Vestry of Christ Church Philadelphia:

In removing to and settling in Philadelphia I have had to meet expenses of which I had formed no idea, and the consequence has been that they have embarrassed me. To remedy this, I have had recourse to private means under my control, but not to the extent of relieving myself entirely. I feel that it is right and proper that they in whose service I am engaged should render me some assistance in such circumstances. My regular salary is intended to meet the current expenses of the year, but cannot be supposed to meet also the expenditure, felt as being heavy by a clergyman, consequent upon taking up a residence in a city, and engaging at once in the active services of a large, respectable, & strange parish. On this ground therefore, I ask the Vestry for an appropriation for my benefit of three hundred dollars.

The nature of the application allowing me only to state it and the ground of it, I submit it in this brief way, but very respectfully, to your judgment and decision.

Your humble servant,
and Assistant Minister,

Jno. W. Jones

Philad.a April 15. 1833

Rev. John W. James' letter to the Vestry April 15, 1833 asking an appropriation of 300 dollars —

Vestry granted 100 dollars for the present. —

To the
Vestry of Christ Church
Philadelphia

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To the Vestry of Christ Ch. Phila.

The interest I may be expected to feel in the welfare of the Church with which you as well as myself, are connected, & whose prosperity we should in common wish to advance, is my apology for suggesting to your consideration & action several improvements that would have I think a very beneficial tendency.

1. The first in order is some improvement in the galleries — if these could be filled with single pews or slips and regularly divided, we should gain a great deal in comfort, convenience, improved appearance, & in the number & value of the sittings. In the present arrangement much space is wasted, & the comfort & convenience of most of the seats disregarded. I think more seats would be united in the galleries, if the pews were arranged as in other churches generally.

2. The Sunday Schools are an important & interesting part of our parish concerns, but their accommodations at present are not sufficient. The room used by the female school is so situated as that access to it, is, to say the least, fatiguing; its dimensions are far from being adequate to what the school requires, several classes being necessarily taught in the Church, & those left behind crowded in too small a space for convenience or health. A very interesting infant class of 40 little girls has also to be taught in the Church under very disadvantageous circumstances. The mode of infant instruction requires

a Separate apartment, in wh. there is nothing to divide the attention of the class, & nothing to be disturbed by its exercises. The male infant class is in like circumstances thus to be taught in the body of the Church — a place in wh there ought to be no part of the School. The Boys School room has been made comfortable for the present number of scholars — but that number we have not taken ~~made~~ pains to increase lest the room might be crowded. We want then ~~at least~~ three new departments for the Schools, of a spacious size, & with convenient arrangements. Most Churches provide well for their S. Schools. St Peter's Ch. has purchased a house in its neighbourhood for this purpose — at St Jame's Ch. rooms have been built — and just at this time arrangements are making in Trinity Ch. for putting up a building solely for the use of Sunday Schools.

— We have about thirty teachers, devoting themselves to a hundred and ~~fifty~~ sixty or seventy Children, with no inducement but a sense of duty & a love of doing good. Their disinterested exertions should be sustained by the Vestry by providing them with pleasant & sufficient apartments for their labours.

3. I beg further to call your attention

to the Library
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to the Library of Christ Ch. This is a valuable collection of Books, wh has sustained loss and damage from the want of proper attention hitherto, & its precise situation at present no one is aware of because it is placed where it will not be likely to be looked after. The room, or closet fitted up for it is too small to afford any convaniences for attendence to it or using it. The wisdom of Library committees in general has led them to place their books where attention would be invited to them - where some inducement would be offered to peruse their contents. Our Library seems to have been placed to as to be out of the danger of being used. I would suggest that a larger room be provided for it in which it should be kept locked in ordinary cases, but opened regularly once or twice a week for the use of such as have right of access to it. The attention necessary to diffuse the benefit of the Library, to preserve it, & if possible to recover at least some of its lost volumes & add new ones, I am ready cheerfully to undertake, if the inspection I make be thought worthy to be acted upon.

4. Among smaller matters to wh. I might call your attention, there is one of sufficient importance to be especially noticed. The pictures for Reading round the altar are so bad as to require some improvement or change. Many communicants of the

churches have spoken to me on this subject & have mentioned the strained & uncomfortable position they are subjected to, in one of the most holy acts of our religion, when there ought to be nothing in the least to distract the mind. I will say nothing of the bringing in & carrying out of the circular benches, or the trip having to keep them when not in use so conspicuously in the entrance to the South Gallery — I leave this & the other matters to rest upon to your own sense of what will be beneficial, expedient, & decent, having no doubt that under each of these heads much will at once be suggested to your given minds, wh. I could not enlarge upon in this communication, wh. is is submitted with much respect & deference

by your humble servant
& penitent minister

Jno. W. James

Phila. April 15. 1839

Communication to the Vestry from
the Rev. John W. James
April 15, 1839
Pointing out sundry objects
wanted for Christ Church
& Committee appointed to
attend to them & report